

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to replace the title, and to amend the specification and abstract in order to make correct minor editorial amendments in the English translation of the International Application.

Also, submitted herewith is a corrected drawing of Figs. 12 and 14. As you will see, Fig. 12 has been amended to correct reference numeral "CB" to --CP-- and Fig. 14 has been amended to add the legend "Prior Art. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

A cold-cathode tube lighting device according to the present invention uniformly lights a plurality of cold-cathode tubes using a common power source, and maintains the luminance of each cold-cathode tube uniformly in the longitudinal direction thereof at high precision. A first block (1) converts a direct current voltage (V_i) to one pair of alternating voltages (V_A , V_B). Since leakage impedances of step-up transformers (5A, 5B) are low, the first block (1) functions as one pair of low-impedance power sources. Each second block (2) is connected to each cold-cathode tube (20). A ballast inductor (LB) stabilizes tube current by resonating with a matching capacitor (CM) during lighting of the cold-cathode tube (20). A combined impedance of the matching capacitor (CM) and a peripheral stray capacitance is matched with an impedance of the ballast inductor (LB), for each cold-cathode tube (20). Since a delay circuit (7) shifts phases of two pulse waves (P1, P2) with respect to each other, a phase difference between the alternating voltages (V_A , V_B) is shifted from 180°.